

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 216941
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 SSO-00 TRSE-00
AGRE-00 STR-04 COME-00 AID-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 /061 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:JGRAHAME:DLS
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O R 100053Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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PASS UNDER SECRETARY COOPER FROM KATZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, IN

SUBJECT: CHAIRMANSHIP OF INDO-U.S. ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL
SUBCOMMISSION MEETING

1. AS I MENTIONED TO YOU BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE FOR MANILA, WE ARE ENCOUNTERING PROBLEMS IN SCHEDULING A MEETING OF THE INDO-U.S. JOINT COMMISSION'S ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION, OF WHICH I AND INDIAN FINANCE MINISTRY SECRETARY MANMOHAN SINGH SERVE AS CO-CHAIRMEN. THE SUBCOMMISSION LAST MET IN NEW DELHI IN MARCH 1976, AND SHOULD MEET THIS FALL IN WASHINGTON. THE SECRETARY IS CONSIDERING VISITING NEW DELHI LATE THIS YEAR FOR A JOINT COMMISSION MEETING. THE SUBCOMMISSION SHOULD MEET BEFORE THAT TIME. THE INDIANS WOULD PREFER A LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER DATE. MY INVOLVEMENT IN THE JAPANESE AIR NEGOTIATIONS WILL TAKE ME OUT OF ACTION FOR EXTENSIVE PERIODS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER. AS A RESULT, I AM UNABLE TO COMMIT MYSELF TO CHAIRING A SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DURING THAT PERIOD AND HAVE SO INFORMED THE INDIANS.

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2. AS AN INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO THE SUBCOMMISSION IN THIS PERIOD OF RAPIDLY IMPROVING INDO-US

RELATIONS, THE INDIANS HAVE ASKED IF YOU COULD CHAIR THIS MEETING. IN FACT, THEY BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE

APPROPRIATE FOR THE U.S. SIDE TO BE CHAIRED PERMANENTLY AT THE UNDER SECRETARY LEVEL. (WE DO NOT HAVE TO REPLY TO THIS REQUEST NOW.)

3. THIS YEAR'S AGENDA WILL INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF INDIAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND U.S. PLANS FOR RESUMING A BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN INDIA AS WELL AS A DISCUSSION OF NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES. SINGH IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THESE ISSUES AND LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ON THEM. HE HAS REQUESTED AN ANSWER BY SEPT. 14.

4. BECAUSE OF MY SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, THE INDIAN REQUEST FOR YOUR CHAIRMANSHIP, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH/SOUTH AGENDA ITEMS, I RECOMMEND THAT YOU AGREE TO JOIN MANMOHAN SINGH IN CO-CHAIRING THE MEETING IN LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER, IF YOUR SCHEDULE PERMITS. ALTHOUGH TWO DAYS ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE MEETING, YOUR PARTICIPATION COULD BE LIMITED TO ABOUT TWO HOURS ON EACH OF TWO DAYS, WITH YOUR DESIGNEES CHAIRING MORE DETAILED TRADE AND OPERATIONAL DISCUSSIONS. REPRESENTATIVES OF TREASURY, AGRICULTURE, STR, COMMERCE AND AID WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE DELEGATION. VANCE

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